

Testimony of

Gina Silvestri

Stamford Educator

Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I am fully in support of this legislation, especially about the COVID Benefit Enhancement and the elimination of the EdTPA. As a younger teacher (I am in my 4th year of teaching) and starting off my career in the times of COVID, to say my first year of teaching was a challenge is an understatement. During COVID, I made myself accessible to my parents any time of the day. I was working way past contractual hours. To be able to be recognized for this extra work is absolutely necessary. In addition, I was part of the pilot program for the EdTPA. Honestly, I do not think it reflects any preparation for the real world of teaching. I believe this is a better way to prepare future teachers for this profession. It is also extremely inequitable based on what district you are placed in for student teaching.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

